

DIGITAL ELECTIONS NETWORK SYSTEM  
WITH ONLINE VOTING AND POLLING

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method for utilizing a wide area network, such as the Internet, for elections, polls, petition signature gathering, and related communications in a political system. The method includes providing relevant information to an individual having access to a digital network in order to vote, answer a polling question, sign a petition, or express an opinion about a relevant issue, prior to the individual taking such action. The method includes providing communication between individual users and candidates, government officials, issue spokespersons and other individual users on the digital network. The method further includes allowing the user to digitally sign his or her vote, opinion, petition, or proposed issue, associating the signature with the ballot, petition, or poll data, and transmitting it to a centralized processing location for verification, tabulation, and publication. Although the systems and methods disclosed herewith are primarily intended for increasing citizens' participation in the political process, applications to commercial and/or scientific communication are readily apparent.

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